

SPRING EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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Bell Ringer awarded by THSPA

News Detail

At this year's Tennessee High School Press Association award ceremony at Lipscomb University, *The Bell Ringer* received a "Superior" ranking – the association's second highest honor – for "consistently integrating writing, design and visuals into the publication."

In the evaluation of the paper's individual facets, *The Bell Ringer* received "Superior" rankings in feature writing, sports writing, photography/illustrations, and coverage. Additionally, the paper's design/graphics and opinions writing were recognized as "All-Tennessee," the association's highest ranking.

Individually, Joshua Liang received an Honorable Mention for features writing (August 2009), and Pat Killian received an Honorable Mention for front-page design.

Harpeth Hall's student newspaper, *Logos*, was recognized as the best overall paper in the state.

Library changing face once again

By Rob Edwards
Staff Writer

Housed across the lawn from the Massey building, the stacks of books, the new computers downstairs and the two computer labs, the language lab, all of the desks and study rooms, and the great librarians make the Patrick Wilson Library an excellent place to get some work done and also a great place to socialize with friends. Throughout its history, the library has been a useful asset to student life on the Hill.

The Patrick Wilson Library was completed in May, 1968, when Francis Carter was MBA's headmaster. Then, in 1996 the library underwent extensive renovations and officially re-opened in 1997. During the fall of 1996, the "library" was housed in a big trailer parked in front of the Carter Building on the Quad.

The Wilson gift, given in December 2009, of almost \$90,000, has underwritten the biggest milestone in the library's timeline since 1997. In addition to the physical changes of the large glassed-in study area and new furniture, the library plans to spend a great deal of money to purchase an extensive collection of e-books as well as audio books which students will be able to download on to their iPods and computers. Libraries as a whole are changing and be-



Juniors Andrew Powell, Jack Hallemann, and Max Werthan enjoy the library's new secluded "Reference" room. (Glass has since been fitted to the frames.)
Photo supplied by Rob Edwards ('12)

coming more electronic, so MBA is reflecting those trends as well.

You might think that an upcoming moment in the library will be the elimination of the print books and the use of only electronic materials, but that's not a possibility any time soon, if ever. The library,

explained Mrs. Mildred Tilley, holds a firm belief that there will always be a need for libraries to have print materials. While the library is starting to acquire new reference and leisure books that are only available

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Tennis team boasts crucial depth, sets high goals

By Kyle Brantley
Co-Sports Editor

The MBA tennis team is more motivated and driven than any other organization on campus. Obviously, every sports team has dreams and goals for its season, but the tennis team has made these goals tangible and concrete.

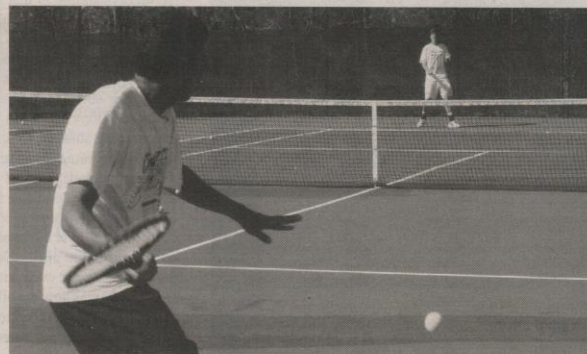
At the beginning of the year, the players voted on what would be most pivotal to their success, and they came up with five goals that are written on a card above each player's locker: Win state; Win Carter (the Carter Invitational held at MBA); Go undefeated; Win Rotary; Nobody lose to the same person twice. If the Big Red executes those goals to perfection, then they will undoubtedly have one of the best tennis teams in the program's storied history.

This tennis bunch is led by four key

seniors: Roger Briggs, Naveen Chadalavada, Jake Hymes, and Chris Vaughan, two of whom will be continuing their tennis careers at the college level. Roger has signed with Vanderbilt University, while Naveen will be heading out to Washington University in St. Louis. Roger has an especially interesting story: he attended MBA from seventh to ninth grade, only to transfer to McCallie for his sophomore year. However, Roger had to stay true to his heart and return to his home at MBA for his junior and senior years, even if it meant sitting out the entirety of his junior year because of TSSAA transfer rules. Roger is currently the team's number-one player, so obviously his contributions will make a huge difference with this year's club.

Like Roger, Naveen transferred to

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Seniors Naveen Chadalavada and Roger Briggs warm up before practice. Led by these college-bound seniors, the squad rounds out its other positions strongly, a key to success under new TSSAA scoring rules. Photo by Parrish Preston ('13)

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THE BELL RINGER

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The Bell Ringer is a non-profit newspaper operated and published by and for the students of Montgomery Bell Academy, who are its intended audience. Views expressed in The Bell Ringer do not necessarily represent those held by the staff or school.

Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@fc.montgomerybell.com (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Franklin Web Printing in Franklin, Tennessee, prints the paper.



Congress passes health care reform; MBA opinion divided

By Jesse Suh
Staff Editor/ialist

A few months ago I wrote a column in which I asserted that, with health care premiums for individuals set to double by 2020, a government-run public option was the best option to create competition with private insurance companies and cover "emergency care" patients, who undermine the whole system. A year after President Obama made the health care crisis an issue in Congress, the Democrats achieved a huge legislative victory last week when the House of Representatives passed the Senate version of health care reform that relies on an insurance exchange, which, although not a public option,

itself through a large tax on "Cadillac plans," which are insurance plans for the extremely wealthy that cost over 25,000 dollars a year (average family plans aren't believed to be over 15,000 dollars a year), a small tax of no more than five percent for those who qualify for Medicare and have an income of over 200,000 dollars, funding cuts in Medicare designed to eliminate fraud and waste, and a financial reward to doctors based on the quality of care rather than the number of patients seen. Based on Congressional Budget Office estimates, the bill is projected to cut deficits by 132 billion dollars.

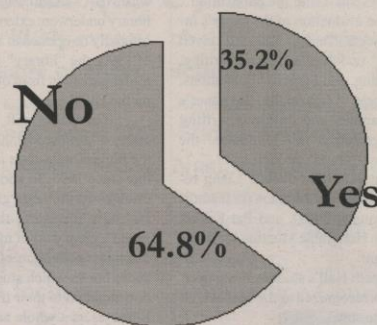
The belief that the government is forcing people who don't want health care to get it has been labeled by political pundits on the far right, such as Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh,

right, and in the status quo, people are denied the right to life due to irresponsible insurance practices and a broken system.

Some have argued that health care reform includes federal funds for abortion, but whether or not people are for or against women's reproductive rights, the bill changes nothing about the current federal stance on abortion, stated by the Hyde Amendment, that no federal funding can be directed toward abortion. Also, in order to quell representatives' fears that the bill would allow payments for abortion, Obama issued an executive order before the House vote that reinforced the Hyde Amendment.

Finally, what I consider to be the most credible concern for the bill is the fact that there is currently a shortage of primary care physicians in

Do you think the health care bill, as signed by the president, is a good idea?



Email poll conducted by Jesse Suh ('11).
Results out of 233 participants

looks to achieve similar effects. My understanding is that the passage of reform is unpopular with the majority of MBA's student body, and this column is not about changing minds. Rather, it is about clarifying some commonly held misconceptions about the bill and encouraging students to formulate their own opinions about reform by overcoming their political stigmas and looking beyond the increasingly hyperbolic news media.

With over a year of intense debate about the bill in Congress, the main concern, even with many Democrats, was how the bill was to be paid for. The bill is estimated to cost a little under a trillion dollars over a ten-year period, but to put the costs into context, inaction would devastate the economy through the doubling of health care premiums. The government would probably allow the deficit to increase more severely than implement the necessary taxes which would be needed to keep the ballooning costs of Medicare and Medicaid under control. Regardless, the reform bill that passed through Congress is actually designed to pay for

as a form of government coercion that infringes upon individual liberties. Pragmatically, however, unfounded beliefs that the United States is on a continuing path of socialism seem to be countered by the benefits of not overburdening the medical system with easily preventable emergency care costs that will have a significant impact on the economy. However it is seen, any able-bodied person considered to be low-income would receive insurance at no cost under reform, and for people who wouldn't want to pay for insurance only a small fine would have to be paid to opt out of coverage.

On that same note, many have argued that the individual mandate to purchase health care is unconstitutional. Legally, however, the bill is consistent with all recent court precedent of the federal government's ability to regulate interstate commerce. A recent example is the Supreme Court's decision in *Raich v. Gonzales*, in which it was ruled that the government did have the ability to regulate the growth of medical marijuana if it wanted to enforce the ban. Also, on an ideological level, health care can be considered a basic human

right. The bill takes steps to increase the workforce, however, through scholarships and student-loan debt-forgiveness for medical students pursuing primary care. Results seem to be immediate, as the number of medical students who are interested in primary care jumped almost ten percent even before the bill was finalized.

Even if people do not find the expansion of coverage from 83% to 95% of the population a moral reason to support the bill, the actual text of the legislation seems to discredit the claims of its most extreme detractors and addresses the fundamental need for more competition in the health care industry in order for it to be economically sustainable. I don't, however, expect all students to agree with me, and to them, I would suggest that they examine the bill themselves and defend their opinions with more than just unsubstantiated ideologies.

Thoughts? Send us an email at bellringer@montgomerybell.edu

SciOly takes another title, nationals bound

By Joe Scherrer
Staff Writer

Outlined against a blue-gray Knoxville sky, the Four Horsemen rode again. In dramatic lore their names are Death, Destruction, Pestilence, and Famine - but those are only aliases. Their real names are Mitchell "I like dinos" Lukens, Adam "No, dad, I haven't been sterilized by my particle accelerator" Bowman, Karthik "Mr. Hilter" Sastry, and Bryan "All my nicknames are stupid" Oslin.

The other teams were no match for the spinning, nuclear cyclone of turmoil that is the MBA Science Olympiad team. Led by a bunch of jovially intense seniors like Kevin Carr, Seth Akers-Campbell, Richard Wall, and Michal Zienkiewicz., not only did the Big Red Army dominate other traditional powerhouses like Oak Ridge (whose parents all glow in the dark anyway), but they did it in style. In the words of advisor Dr. Jim Dickens, "We hit a butterfly with a sledgehammer."

"Stupendously," adds fellow advisor Mr. Chris Bullington.

Notable achievements include Mitchell Lukens's virtuoso Fossils performance (with Karthik's "help"); Miles Anderson and McLean Hudson's 5th in the state in a trial event, Protein Modeling (out of five teams - woot!); and the utter domination of Andrew Powell, Carter Callaway, and Connor Caldwell's Pictionary dynasty (going for



the big win at Nationals).

In addition to a lot of bling, the team came home with \$7,500 dollars in stimulus money (all right, maybe we can thank our President for something) that, unfortunately, will go towards hotel costs instead of a shiny new nuclear fusion-arc welder for the research room.

The team is pumped for nationals in Chicago on May 21-22, mostly because everyone gets to miss exams. The participants hope to represent Tennessee well and improve upon their low-40s finish of three years ago.

The Science Olympiad squad celebrates their masterful performance at the state championship in Knoxville. The seniors (at right) competed on the state-championship team three years ago and are eager to once again compete in Nationals. Photos supplied by Kevin Carr ('10)



Do you have what it takes to be a SciOly National Champion?

Try answering these basic questions from the competition's various events

Anatomy and Physiology: "What treatment would you recommend for a patient diagnosed with Cushing's Syndrome?"

Cell Biology: "The pH difference across mitochondrial membranes can be as high as _____."

Chemistry Lab: "Using sulfuric acid and a scale, determine the mass percentage of carbon dioxide in this powder, which contains sodium bicarbonate."

Dynamic Planet: "Using the differences in arrival time of P and S waves at these three stations, determine the magnitude of the earthquake and the location of the epicenter."

Environmental Chemistry: "Using the probes provided, determine which of the following soil samples would give the highest yield of potato crop."

Forensics: "Identify this blood sample as reptilian, mammalian, or avian."

Fossils: "Identify each dinosaur fossil by name. Record the order of each specimen and the period in which it thrived."



It's About Time: "If the time in New York City is 9:30 AM EDT on June 21, 2009, what is the sidereal time?"


Ornithology: "Listen to the recording provided and identify the species name and its usual habitat."

Physics Lab: "In the diagram above, what is the efficiency of the energy transfer to the cart from the falling mass?"

Remote Sensing: "_____ resolution is the ability of a sensor to distinguish between fine wavelength intervals."


Didn't think so...snitch



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


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Seniors totes almost done with this place, brah

By Will Henry
Entertainment Editor

The seniors are entering the home stretch of their time at MBA, and most couldn't be happier. Sadly, there are still a few hurdles in the way. The financial seminars, especially the mandatory ones that take place at 6:30 at night, have created quite a bit of outrage from many soon-to-be-graduates. Admittedly, many students still learned useful information from them. For instance, **Jeffrey Nutkis** discovered that "the \$5 box from Taco Bell is the best investment on the market." Too true! Glad to see we're learning.

In breaking athletic news, **Denzel Caldwell** received his Red Belt in Black Lotus Kung Fu on January 30. Over spring break, he met **Chuck Norris'** neighbor. He also competed in the regional Shakespeare Competition on March 6. He is the definition of well-rounded.

Mac Frith, **Matt Moynihan**, **Adrian Carey**, **Zach Sternberg**, **Mike Gedelman**, and **Miiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiitichel Lukens** went to London for Spring Break. From St. Paul's to the British Museum to a soccer game, they had the London experience. Last Saturday, **Miiiiiiiiitich** became a State Champion in Fossils for Science Olympiad, and the team got first overall.

While **Campbell Haynes** was in London for political reasons, relative **Carrie** got worried. **Hershel Mehta** kept her

company the whole time to calm her down. On a less exciting side note, **Hershel** got into Stanford.

Nathan Dewitt is ready for baseball season. But that's not really news. Just like how **Alex Karpos** is a snitch. He has legally changed his name to "Smallpos."

John Andrews is going to be attending UGA next year. He, **Ryan Venable**, and **Kevin Lurey** saw **Jennifer Aniston** in New York on Spring Break.

In another edition of "Blast from the Past," I'd like to comment on everyone's favorite departee, **Cameron Malakouti**. He is now 6 ft 3....okay we all know that's not true. I haven't seen him or talked to him since, but all of his Facebook statuses deal with tricking out his brand new Porsche with the exception of this one: "Halo 4 v 4 tournament tomorrow at 7 at The Score! Come out and play!!" Good to see **Cameron** hasn't changed too much.

Many adventures happened over Spring Break. For instance, **Eric Mace** befriended freshman **Trey Gill's** little sister. **Kevin Carr** fell in a bike race against **Jordan Stauffer**, who now has a girlfriend, but luckily he kept his facial structure intact. **Richard Putnam** bought a house in Tribeca. **Tee Griscom** brought out some of his finer lines about galaxies and the stars and how *The Notebook* is his favorite movie to woo some young (and I mean young) hunnies. Speaking of which, **Daniel Todd** and I were recently chatting about the latest develop-



With his tie matching the American flag, **Jack Murfee** expounds upon his political views: the injustices of the pinko commie liberal hippies tyrannizing this God-fearing nation, his eagerness to vote out said pinko hippies in the fall elections, and the innate goodness and social benefits of big ol' trucks, camouflage, and country music artists such as **Rascal Flatts**. Photo courtesy of Mr. **Jamie Tillman**

ments in the TV show "24." If you take ten away from that number and add **Charles Herron**, braces might get stuck together.

In other semi-related news, **Hayden Wieck** took a shower in the jungle (or some-

thing like that). **Ben Mecklenborg** caught the **Pokemon Suicune** during 3rd period on last Friday. **Trey Howard** blocked the living heck out of **Andrew Phillips'** layup, and **Jackson Roberts** cannot freestyle.

Freshmen threaten to reveal hidden potential

By McLean Hudson
Staff Writer

With only the fourth quarter left in the school year, freshmen everywhere are starting to get summer fever, even with Spring Break just completed.

Penn Murfee started his break by seeing a kid get nailed in the face with a tennis ball near his condo. **Penn** laughed. **Nathan Fouts** caught a seagull with a fishing pole; **Jack Emerson** limped two miles home after falling into a ditch while running; **Colin Caldwell** saw guys skiing in American-flag speedos (gotta love America), and the next thing he saw was a tree in his face.

Tom "Tree" Kaiser bought over thirteen pounds of candy at a flea market. **Will McFadden** saw **Ryan Owen** in Destin, and **Clay Ramsey** discovered "gum" (probably sometime before his insane fight with **Furman Haynes**). **John Powell** lost two pairs of flip-flops in Seaside, and the ever-charming **McLean Hudson** wound up alone in an alligator/bear-infested state park.

Since then, some startling news has surfaced: **Hamilton Millwee** reportedly now has a girlfriend (?). **Brandon Key** supposedly signed a letter of intent with Southern Cal, even though they never offered him a scholarship. At least that's not as bad as the 8th-grade quarterback from Delaware...

JV baseball (with thirteen freshmen) took down our bitter rival BA to open the season, a win highlighted by **Wilson**

Johnson's 360-foot homerun. JV lacrosse, also bolstered by a strong freshman class, has gotten off to a good start (even if they don't always get to games on time).

This past weekend, **Adam Bowman** placed in several events at the State Science Olympiad Competition, including a first place in a build event, snapping **MBA's** dry streak in that category. His absolutely superb effort helped **MBA** to win the state competition for the first time in a few years. **Adam** will head to nationals in Chicago, along with the rest of **MBA's** fantastic Science Olympiad team.

Adam also won the Grand Prize at the Middle Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair a week ago.

In other news, **Sam Waite** waits in the lunch room for as long as possible so he doesn't have to face the tyrannical **Madison "Pig" Rieke** and **Davidson White** before Latin class. Meanwhile, **John Mellow** is enjoying Lat-tin class, likes the way the Titans off-season is going, and thinks kit-tens are cute. If you haven't noticed, **Tom Bu** has an amazing ability to sneak around... oh, Tom, you scared me!

Teaching Latin to freshmen is, according to Dr. **Gaffney**, like teaching mayonnaise.

So keep up the good work, everyone - it's almost over. And remember, enunciate your T's, sign a scholarship letter, and look out for Bu. Spend a day sleeping, put some aloe on those burns, **Rajiv Patel**, and don't stop running before the finish line.

Class of '010 shines in college admissions

The Class of 2010's matriculation list is shaping up to surpass its already lofty expectations. After years of hope-fully wearing their favorite college hoodies, seniors are now finding themselves not only admitted to their top choices but

offered significant scholarships as well. Among the class' successes, the following, while not necessarily final decisions, are admittance notifications and scholarships that would make even **Alex Hagar** want to dance.

Neil Ryan - \$30K grant to Notre Dame
Eric Mace, Campbell Haynes, Michael Seitz - Dartmouth
Will Henry - Foundation Fellows at UGA
Michael Zienkiewicz and Seth Akers-Campbell - Brown
Hershel Mehta - Stanford
Overton Thompson - SMU
Patrick Lovett - Drexel
Thomas Moore and Wesley Wilson - unconditional offers at Oxford
Jeff Nutkis - full-ride to UT
Joshua Liang - Vagelos Life Science and Management program at UPenn
Matt Bellet - University of Chicago
Adrian Carey - NYU Tisch School of the Arts
Wiley Hunt - Pomona
Lewis Armistead - UVA
Kevin Carr - Notre Dame, with a full-ride from Navy ROTC
Aaron Lutkowitz and Rob Higham - UNC
Mitchell Lukens - University of Wyoming
Mike Gedelman - Boston University
Jordan Herring - Baylor
Steven Gaittens - half-tuition to USC
Wilson Griffith - Virginia Tech
Alex Apple - full-ride to SMU
Sami Ansari - Oxford College at Emory
Tommy Harless - Rhodes
Thompson Barr - Davidson



After SBX, juniors seriously stoked for Prom

By Andrew Powell
News Editor

Reminiscing about Spring Break, trying to get a good start to the 4th quarter, struggling to find the perfect date and the tux to match, and fending off the ever-present paparazzi, MBA's Class of 2011 remains in every sense "On a Hill."

Even on the beaches during Spring Break, the juniors were on a hill. **Clay Garrett** promoted the USA's extra-terrestrial relations in his encounter with an alien which found its way to the beach. In this paper's last issue, **Ian Sharbel** proclaimed that aliens do not exist; Clay Garrett, however, has proven everyone wrong.

Jack Warne is sorely disappointed that "James Bond" beat out his Prom theme suggestions of "War of 1812," "Fairly Well-Known Typists of the 1990s," and "Gourds other than Pumpkins." He shed a few Jack Warne tears, which, as we all know, turn into jelly beans.

Michael Scotty Peters and **Ford Altenbern** have returned from their time at Eton! Ford has since been heard saying "cheerio" far more times than your typical American.

Michael jumped right back into MBA distance running, to joyous celebration by team and fans alike. Michael did not take any time off, however, as he maintained 60 miles a week while training for British XC Nationals. Michael tragically got food poisoning the night before nationals and did not get to run. Foul play is suspected.

This past weekend, **Connor Caldwell**, **Carter**, and **Andrew Powell** contributed to

MBA's Science Olympiad state championship by bringing home gold in Picture This (scientific pictiography). It was a hard-fought battle, but the Red emerged victorious, bringing home 7,500 dollars and a trip to Nationals in Illinois in May. The competition was intense - Connor claimed it equaled the Ensworth game in terms of nerves and adrenaline. Carter agreed.

We have some new juniors on campus: the lovable day boy **Adam Stephenson**, **Ludwig "Hunter Pie" Kerek**, the most excellent reader **Freddie Monk**, and **Sam "Charles Dickens" Fletcher**.

In an unprecedented display of chess dominance, six of the elite eight in the chess tourney are juniors. I see you, **Warren**! Warren also insists that I mention "Duke Dominance" in this article.

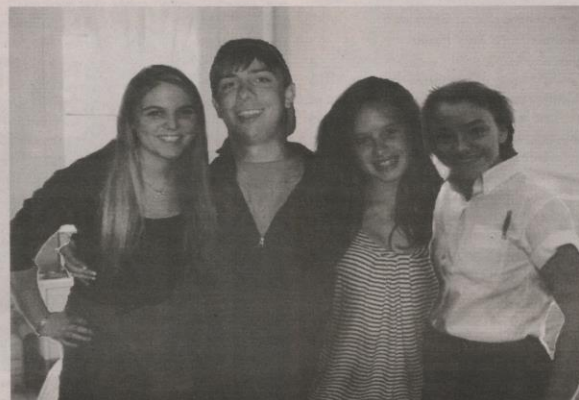
Nick Kohler, resident expert on being engaged (Happy Happy, Joy Joy), is getting pumped for State Math League. Over the break, he visited Harvard, MIT, and Berkeley, but Ford thinks that Nick will go someplace better.

Apparently **Mason Foote** is now secretly engaged. He denies it if you ask him, but he only does it so that his parents won't discover his recent fiancée. He was quoted as saying, "If only I wasn't so awkward." **Clay**, **Elie**, and **Joe** are all getting pumped for the wedding.

Rob Barnes changed his name to **Tyler Durden**. **Matthew Johnson** LOL'd.

Elie has not missed a pick yet on his bracket and is working hard daily to get into college.

Speaking of baseball, **Andrei** tells me that after fighting heat, cacti, and early



Clay Garrett practices the philosophy he developed on SBX. Look at that smile.
Photo supplied by Andrew Powell ('11)

mornings, Phoenix, Arizona, had plenty of fun for the whole baseball team. Especially, he notes, when they went to Vegas for about 30 mins.

Will Cranberries spent some QT with his grandmamma in London and France.

Clay Garrett says his Spring Break was "out of this world."

Tales are surfacing about **Afruigi**, **Wiggle**, **Rhino**, and **Van** "I don't have any cool nicknames" East pulling off an epic Prom-asking 4 peat in under 81 minutes and 13 seconds... beast, I know. **Walter** celebrated by going trick-or-treating last Saturday with his rolly polly **Ernesto**.

You didn't hear it from me, but **Partha Reddy** is now wanted for manslaughter in 3 states. **Tre 4** is back in business.

Connor Caldwell recently boasted, "I have a baby **Lugia** in **Pokemon Destiny** Reign of Legends! It's a hack. **Shadow Lugia** is going down."

Miller's current car-hunting log: 1 deer, 2 raccoons, 2 birds. How he managed to hit all these woodland creatures in under one month truly speaks to his natural skill and talent.

In conclusion, the Junior class clearly has both quantity and quality.

Sophomores claim simply to be misunderstood

By Will Stewart
Interim Staff News Writer

I'm sure everyone is wondering why our beloved Staff News Writer **Joe Scherrer** isn't writing this article. Well, Joe was too busy sleeping on a hotel floor in Knoxville to write the news for this issue, so he asked me to step in. Hopefully, I can live up to the high standard set by my predecessor.

The class's best and brightest recently gathered in an effort to construct the legendary **Danwich**. **Daniel Peters**, **Daniel Bellet**, and **Daniel Mace** convened in Ingram to make the sandwich. Daniel Mace begged to be in the middle, and the other Daniel's were kind enough to grant his request.

When asked for what news he had, **Bryan Olsin** said that he had a good day. He then pursed his lips, said "Track practice," and beat his chest; unfortunately, the effort proved to be too much of a strain for his brittle skeleton, and he broke his collarbone for the fourth time this month.

Kelly Haselton has been sighted with a new girlfriend, but with his many female admirers (**Gabi**, **Kelly**, and **Myra**, to name a few) no one has been able to determine the identity of the lucky lady.

The door to the Latin classroom has been locked during 5th period lunch break. This development has outraged many, most notably **Gray Curtis**, who remarked, "How am I supposed to work ahead on my Latin homework outside of the room that I love

so dearly?"

In light of the recent student government elections, one candidate has distanced himself from the others. If elected, **Adam Hawiger** promises to "take down the capitalist pigs" and "usher in a new era of prosperity and happiness for the proletariat." After reading *The Jungle* for his sophomore research paper, impressionable young **Baker Swain** is all too happy to support him.

Maclin Davis has reached new heights, as his fan page on Facebook is growing at a staggering rate. However, Maclin still has yet to reach the fame of his dog **Bo**, who has fans numbering in the billions.

Many have become outspoken on the issue of healthcare and Obama in light of the recent passage of the healthcare reform package. **Karthik Sastry** proclaimed that he would never support any of Obama's bills, because "Barack Hussein Osama is a Muslim planning a socialist uprising." **Wills Brooks** asserted to nonbelievers, "No, Ron Paul does not support any healthcare package."

Reports have come in that an unnamed sophomore is planning to use a Tesla coil to harness the power of lightning and take control of the school. He released a statement saying that the first thing on his To Do List is to install aquariums in every room. When asked why, he replied, "I like ... fish..."

Daniel Mace has been constantly



Token diversity shot: **Jonathan McClelland**, one of the school's few gingers, works concessions at the Full Moon Film Festival. At MBA, there's a place for everyone.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman

bemoaning the fact that he is not Top Gun. Everyone wishes he would just stop bringing it up, because, honestly, it's getting annoying. **Matt Anderson's** neck hair quivered, possibly a portent of sinister things to come. **Blair Griffith** remained calm in the

face of all adversity, responding to every challenge thrown at him with an apathetic "Eeunhhhh." Actually, this seems to be the attitude taken by every sophomore in response to the end of the school year. Keep it up, Class of 2012!

Guest and host discuss home life of exchange

By Scott Blackwell
Staff Writer

As many of you probably know, MBA holds several exchanges over the course of the year with many prestigious schools in England, Australia, and New Zealand.

One such school is Lindisfarne College. Located in Hastings, New Zealand, Lindisfarne was founded in 1953 as a school for Presbyterian boys, taking its name from the early monastery, established in 634 A.D., off the Northumbrian Coast of England by St. Aidan. I recently got a chance to speak with Henry Yule, an exchange student from Lindisfarne, in order to find out a bit more about his exchange experience.

Bell Ringer: In what part of New Zealand do you live?

Henry Yule: On the north of the two islands, in the middle of the east coast, in the Hawkes Bay Province.

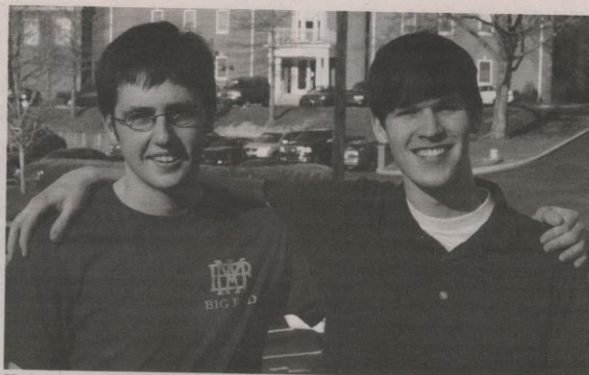
BR: How did you decide that you wanted to be an exchange student?

Henry: My brother, Thomas Yule, went on this same exchange three years ago, and after hearing all the stories of what he experienced at MBA, I decided to try it out as well.

BR: Do you have any other friends doing the exchange program?

HY: There are a few other students from Lindisfarne; Edward Jackson is staying with the Bullock family, and there are also two other boys staying at St. Christopher's School, which is in Virginia, I think.

BR: How would you say that your



Henry Yule of New Zealand and Chris Goodrich ('11) stand before campus. For the next few weeks, MBA will play host to students from China, New Zealand, Australia, and the UK. Photo by Parrish Preston ('13)

school is different from MBA? How is it the same?

HY: The way everyone at MBA is taught – the classes are more lecture than discussion. MBA has greater facilities than Lindisfarne, and sports are much bigger here. Also, the teachers at MBA seem to care a lot more about how the students do, which is similar to Lindisfarne, instead of like public school, where they wouldn't care as much, and wouldn't go beyond just trying to teach the material.

BR: How are you communicating with your friends and family back at home?

HY: There are several ways: I use

Facebook, email, and make long distance calls using a calling card. I mostly use the internet though.

BR: What kind of things are the same here as in New Zealand? What is different?

HY: Like in New Zealand people here are very nice and helpful; the food is a bit different, but we still have McDonalds, KFC, and other things like that. The general atmosphere is the same though, and it just has a good feeling to it.

After talking to Henry, I also got the chance to ask a few questions of Chris Goodrich, whose family is hosting Henry

while he is staying here in Nashville.

Bell Ringer: How did you decide to host an exchange student?

Chris Goodrich: Someone asked my mom if we wanted to host someone, and since we had already hosted another student we thought "why not?" I guess we didn't really think too much about it.

BR: What kinds of things did you and your family do to prepare for Henry's visit?

CG: Just a few small things, like cleaning the house a bit, giving the dog a bath, etc. We were supposed to show a normal American home, so we didn't really try to change too much. It was actually pretty easy because we were able to give him my brother's room since he is off at college. But yeah, we didn't do a whole lot.

BR: What activities do you have planned to give Henry the full Nashville experience?

CG: Henry's spent a full week at MBA so far, and so far he has been able to experience MBA's classes, but outside that we've gone to Bongo Java, toured Belmont's campus, gone to see the Tennessee river, seen downtown Nashville, eaten at a Mexican Restaurant, which was interesting since Henry had never been to one before, and we saw squirrels, which he thought were amazing since they don't have squirrels in New Zealand. Later I think we'll go to a Predators game, and just do some more touring of the city.

Live entertainment faces danger of monopoly

By Zach Sternberg
Guest Writer

After a yearlong dispute, Ticketmaster, America's largest ticket distributor, has gained the United States Justice Department's approval to merge with Live Nation, America's largest concert promoter. Adam Satariano writes in *BusinessWeek* magazine, "the combined company will manage artists, organize concerts, own venues including House of Blues, coordinate marketing partnerships, and sell tickets and merchandise." While this may seem to make life easier – establishing a massive one-stop shop empire – think again. Approved by the companies' shareholders February of last year, this new monster will essentially monopolize the live entertainment industry, affecting both the general public and private businesses.

Consumers are hit financially by way of the merger's horizontal implication, its effect strictly on ticket sales. While Ticketmaster may not have control over face value, the company does, however, have control of service charges. Recently, service fees have recently risen along with the birth of the ticket resale market. Bruce Springsteen has formally expressed his outrage in a letter to the public (published in *Rolling Stone*) combating Ticketmaster's redirection of consumers to their secondary resale site, *TicketsNow*, when a large number of tickets still remained available. He concludes his

letter by speculating, "the only thing that would make the current ticket situation even worse for the fan than it is now would be Ticketmaster and Live Nation coming up with a single system, thereby running us to a near monopoly situation in music ticketing." These are frightening words, as his nightmare has now come to life.

The Boss keenly lays out the facts, but one correction can be made to his concluding statement: "a near monopoly situation in music industry." He notes that the arrangements are made between the venues and the ticketing company, but both aspects would be under the same roof under the provisions of the new deal. The conglomeration could quite possibly excommunicate current management and artist support, ushering in corporate staff. Then, as John Landau, Springsteen's manager, puts it, there is "too much power" in "the hands of too few people in our profession." Ticketmaster's record breaking ticket sales and affiliation with Front Line Entertainment's management, paired with Live Nation's top-notch promoting and venue ownership create the perfect storm for a homogeneous industry, virtually eliminating any competition in the live market.

As the general public awaits the final outcome of the deal, there comes into conflict expectations and reality, what will most likely happen. If the deal is approved, the hope is that higher prices will drive audiences away, thus forcing Ticketmaster and

Live Nation to fulfill their promise of keeping ticket prices down. However, in reality, most concertgoers will not simply pack up and go; many will suck up their sorrow and buy the tickets regardless, freely allowing the joint venture to further enlarge their service fees.

Therefore, action must be taken, by prosecuting on lines of United States antitrust laws in Federal Court. These legislations are in place to prevent under the table deals and, more importantly, deals that significantly lessen the competition. In a free market economy, competition is necessary to thrive. Ticketmaster and Live Nation, in response to this speculation, point to the Sirius-XM satellite radio merge in 2007, which was negotiated to save each other from the struggling economy. Also, the satellite radio venture was formed during George W. Bush's term in office. Kerry Benn of the *Wall Street Journal* notes that the "Justice Department rarely blocked mergers in the name of protecting consumers" under Bush, and that "the Obama administration vowed to reverse" that policy. In essence then, the Obama administration should theoretically side with the consumer, protecting the overall integrity of the live music industry.

Only a month after the United King-

LIVE NATION
ticketmaster

dom branches merged at the consent of the U.K. antitrust regulator, the United States has decided to follow. The Justice Department has decided to take certain precautions, though. Due to the blatant anticompetitive intent of the merger, Christine Varney, chief of the Justice Department's antitrust division, told *The New York Times* after reluctantly approving the amalgamation, "The required divestitures and behavioral prohibitions alleviate our concerns." The divestitures include an entire ticketing division and licensing of the ticketing software to a competitor, one being AEG Live; the behavioral prohibitions refer to provisions the Justice Department has set for the next ten years limiting the company's power over its respective sublets.

This plan is dangerous on so many levels, hitting the consumer hard in the pocketbooks as well as dismantling the industry. The only hope at this point is for AEG Live and other competitors to grow, reestablishing a competitive equilibrium in the live entertainment industry.

Michael and Ford savor life across the Pond

By Joe Barry
Staff Writer

Juniors Michael Peters and Ford Altenbern spent the entire third quarter of this year at Eton College as part of MBA's exchange program with the renowned British boarding school, located near Windsor, England, in a very rural setting.

The same classes taught at MBA are available at Eton. Michael Peters, who continued studying Physics, English, History, and Latin, found these classes similar to those at MBA. However, at Eton, students are generally encouraged to focus their schedules around their own interests. "Boys in the last two years tend to specialize much more," Peters explained. "For example, I had a friend who was taking Latin, Greek, French, and Russian. I had another who was taking Physics, chemistry, biology, and math."

"I think this is a good system. It helps students to really realize what they want to do and like to study."

When asked, Peters could not narrow down the highlights of the trip, saying, "It is very hard to pin it down to just one. Some highlights would have to be going to Wales for a long weekend. Wales was amazing. Being in the city area all the time makes you forget just how amazing the landscape of the country actually is."

Though London was close enough

to make trips every once in a while, the setting of Eton is the complete opposite of MBA's; Eton College is located in the country, while MBA is a quick drive away from downtown and Green Hills. A local cross country star, Peters enjoyed the change of setting immensely. "Running the crazy European cross-country races proved exotic," he remarked. "These races were true cross-country. All I am going to say about it is that the men were quickly separated from the boys."

Though the trip was certainly a treat, a couple of unattractive elements bear mentioning: the flight and, more importantly, the jetlag. When asked about the flight over, Ford said, "It was rough. It took a few days to get over the jetlag and all, but probably one of the coolest parts happened on the flight over when we got to see the sunrise from up above the clouds. I've never seen anything as cool as that in nature."

The food at Eton, however, lacked any such saving grace. "Oh, the food was horrible," said Peters. "I had the misfortune of having to eat in-house, which means that all fifty guys living in my house ate our meals together. This meant that there was very little selection and that seconds were not an option."

"Also, since English schools are working on banning salt, I rarely ever saw salt at the dinner table."

Ford agreed with Michael, saying,

"The food was awful. When we went into town it was pretty good, but otherwise I was eating in a cafeteria for every meal."

As a boarding school, life at Eton naturally differs significantly from life on the Hill. All the students, including the exchange students, are assigned to a dorm where they have their own room and share bathrooms. In each of the 25 houses on campus, there are fifty boys, with around ten from each year. Peters said, "The dorms were a really exciting place. It was in my house that I made my best friends. I became very close to about 10 of the guys that were in my year."

"Just being in the dorm setting was really cool," he continued. "I enjoyed having the freedom to make my own decisions. It was a very independent lifestyle."

While their time at Eton was geared toward integration in the English school system, Michael and Ford also took tourist-oriented trips to London. About the city, an enthusiastic Ford claimed, "[It was] really awesome. I went 3 or 4 times and got to see a play, an international soccer match, hang out with Mr. Morrison and the London trip, and see a Van Gogh expedition at a local museum."

One would think that being on the other side of the world, especially for nine or ten weeks, would be daunting. Michael admits that at first he felt some trepidation, but that he pushed through it and ended up



Michael Peters and Ford Altenbern recently completed a quarter abroad at Eton College. Though the food was subpar, both enjoyed the independence of dorm life. Also, Scotty Peters became a wizard. Photo provided by Michael Peters ('11)

really enjoying the experience. Michael reports, "The greatest thing that I think I will take away from this is that I learned just how similar people are. At first, I thought it would be hard to meet people from another country, but I found it very easy. Wherever you go, the people are the same, it's just that we hear them differently."

"The people made the trip. Just going as a tourist to England for nine weeks, I would not have learned nearly as much as I did."

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So you think you know Ronnie McMahan...

By Jimmie Anderson
Staff Writer

While many students on campus know Coach Ronnie McMahan as one of the coaches for this year's state championship basketball team, others might know him for his cunning and often legendary ability for assessing demerits. Recently, Coach Mac was a recipient of the SEC Legend award for the contributions he made while playing for Vanderbilt in the 90's.

Alongside Coach Kevin Anglin, a former teammate from Vanderbilt, Coach McMahan also led MBA's varsity basketball team to a state championship this year. *The Bell Ringer's* interview with Coach Mac offers a glimpse into his past as college basketball star and his career before coming to MBA.

Bell Ringer: At what age did you first play basketball?

Ronnie McMahan: I started playing at age 4 at the YMCA in Athens, TN, where I was born. I actually started swimming first. My mother started me out learning how to swim when I was three years old. Basketball and swimming were the sports I took seriously growing up, but swimming was my first love. By the time I got to high school, I realized I needed to really practice [basketball] and play hard if I was going to get into a college I really wanted to go to.

BR: How much did you practice playing basketball growing up?

Coach Mac: I spent hours in the gym after school was over. I would go home and eat, then go to the gym and play from about 4:30 to 9 every day.

BR: How would you describe your experience at Vanderbilt and the transition from high school basketball to college basketball?

Coach Mac: Well, in high school, good teams may have one or two good players, but in college every team had a group of good players, if not great players. Every team I played in the SEC had at least 2 or so good players. By attending Vanderbilt, I got to go to a good academic school that's renowned across the nation. It was also close



A coach on the Hill, Ronnie McMahan had an impressive basketball career himself - in America and abroad. Photo by Parrish Preston ('13)

to home, and the fans were always loyal and supportive. Plus, we were always on TV. It was an irreplaceable experience.

BR: Where did you go from college?

Coach Mac: I played 2 years in the semi-pro league CBA. I tried out two years for the Chicago Bulls. After that, I played in Argentina, Austria, and Hungary. I spent five and a half years in Hungary playing on different teams. I became very familiar with the Hungarian lifestyle. It was great playing a game I love in another country. I enjoyed seeing the world and doing other things while playing in the other countries, too.

BR: What was your experience in the NBA life?

Coach Mac: I played six preseason games with the Bulls. My biggest moment was when, in one of the preseason games, Phil Jackson called me in as the first sub, and I was on the court with Dennis Rodman, Scotty Pippen, and Michael Jordan. We were playing the Pacers at Notre Dame. I made my first three-pointer as soon as I got in. I

earned the team's respect from playing so well. They really showed me their respect and taught me things, all from how I played. I played about 12 minutes. They were all extremely intense. We practiced once a day for only 3 hours, and then pretty much the whole team would go out to eat lunch together. After that everyone would go home to be with their families. I can't say how much fun that was. The players were great friends to my family when they would come. Some of the players, like Pippen, Rodman, and Jordan, took my family out to dinner and paid for the meals. I have nothing but great memories from that experience. No regrets.

BR: So, of all the leagues you played in, which one was the most enjoyable?

Coach Mac: Hungary was my favorite league because I spent so much time there and became familiar with everything about it. My wife is Hungarian, so it became a part of my own culture and life. Even to this day, if I go back to Hungary, I still have friends there I would spend time with.

BR: Most points you ever scored in a game?

Coach Mac: 45. I scored 45 points in high school the day I committed to Vandy. I scored 45 again in Hungary the day before Christmas. However, I was always fortunate enough to play on good teams that had enough good people to the point I didn't have to be concerned about scoring and could play as a more all-around player.

BR: With MBA's state championship success this year, what have you enjoyed most about coaching?

Coach Mac: Seeing our kids progress, whether it's year to year or over a number of years. Watching our program that's gone from one that may not have received that much attention to one that has developed into one that has become successful on all levels, junior school, JV and varsity. The most rewarding thing as a coach is to see your program reach and obtain goals that you were striving for and to finally obtain them. Also, to be part of a coaching staff with Coach Anglin, an old Vandy teammate, to be back together and winning a state championship, and both of our dreams and goals being reached, is great.

BR: What do you consider your biggest accomplishment throughout your entire career?

Coach Mac: Honestly, my biggest accomplishment is going back to Vanderbilt and getting my degree, after leaving my junior year to chase the dream of professional basketball. Without that degree, coming to MBA to win the state championship and being able to work here would not have been possible.

BR: What team did you pick for the NCAA tournament?

Coach Mac: I picked Kentucky based on talent, but with this year's contest, it could even be Duke, as much as I hate to say it, or West Virginia.

BR: Who do you think will win the NBA finals?

Coach Mac: Well, the Lakers are the defending champions, but I think my heart is with Cleveland because of LeBron. But I say Lakers first, Cleveland second. I want Cleveland to win though.

New books, rooms, faces to be found in library

continued from page 1

online, they will keep acquiring print books as long as they can.

More than any other one thing, Mr. Robbie Quinn's presence as the assistant librarian has changed the "culture" of the library this year. He has introduced graphic novels and many "boy" books to students who have become library "groupies." Mr. Quinn's love of strategy games has enlivened the library and enticed many boys who hadn't darkened the door to the library to become regular users.

Mrs. Tilley had this to say about her new co-worker: "I think that Mr. Quinn's presence, and his beard, have had a direct correlation to the big jump in circulation that the library has experienced this school year."

Mr. Quinn agrees with this, of course, but he also feels like Ms. Tilley makes the library a nice place to congregate every year she is here. "She is so eager to help anybody

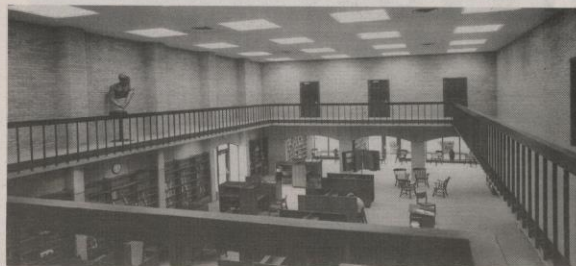
who crosses her path that the library has become MBA's ultimate one-stop shop," he said.

This year, the library has acquired books, DVDs, databases, and supplies from over fifty vendors. Most of its books come locally from Ingram Books or from Amazon.com or Follett.

The library is fortunate to have a healthy budget which has allowed us to purchase around 700 books so far this year, as well as subscriptions to about 80 magazines and 19 online databases.

The librarians had this to say about the future of the library: "Things are changing so quickly in the library and in the information world that we think the best future plans for MBA should be to remain nimble and flexible so that they can ride the wave of all the changes that continue to present themselves."

They continued, "We hope that our students can help us keep up with the pace



A shot of the Patrick Wilson Library in its nascency. Over Spring Break, the reference section was enclosed by a new wall to form an additional study room.

of information technology by encouraging and informing us on specific tools and gadgets."

As you have learned, the Patrick Wilson Library is a fantastic part of MBA, and it is only going to improve. So, head

down to the library and check out a book, rent a movie, use the computers, and, most importantly, appreciate the fact that you have a great library like this one to use every day.

I like my lasagna from a trailer, what's it to you?

By Seth Akers-Campbell and
Thompson Barr

The Food Review Team, Reincarnated

We are aware that many of you have reached a mental impasse. We know this because we are Jedis and can read minds. But you are all thinking, "Hey, I've been to every restaurant I know, and I am super bored. I wish someone would find a new place and tell me about it." Being committed to the peace of the galaxy, we, the new-and-improved Food Review Team, will oblige you by relating our experiences at the little-known but very fine restaurant Pasgetti's.

Pasgetti's is located in what looks like a trailer in Bellevue. But don't let appearances fool you. What it lacks in size, it makes up for in awesomeness. Selling a heavyweight combination of barbecue and Italian food, it provides a siren call for anyone liking good eating.

TBarr decided to take on a nice pork sandwich. At first he thought it was slightly dry, but, with their barbecue sauce, it ended up being one of the best pulled-pork sand-

wiches ever. The SAC decided to go for Italian food, since Pasgetti's does have an Italian name. So he got the lasagna, which was most excellent. It comes with a breadstick (scrumptious) and salad (choice of house or Caesar).

It was an extremely tasty meal, but it wasn't as filling as expected and it cost \$14, with dessert. \$14 is a little pricey for a meal bought out of a random trailer behind a Pizza Hut, right? Fortunately, in the opinion of the Food Review Team, the deliciousness makes up for any concerns in pricing, saving Pasgetti's from a horrible review in this prestigious and widely read newspaper. They make a mean cheesecake as well if you have a hankering for dessert. Overall, we give the food a 9.27/10.

Well, although the food was really good, Pasgetti's has no place to eat. It really is just a trailer. If you have a Pasgetti's meal, you need to find another place to actually partake in your vittles. And that's just what we did.

First, realizing that we had forgotten dinner, we stopped at a Mapco. Remember, dear reader, to order drinks at Pasgetti's



The Food Review Team boldly goes where most people would not look for pasta and BBQ. Photo courtesy of the blogosphere (not Thompson's new iPhone)

because, unlike most places which try to squeeze every cent out of you, they don't remind you to buy drinks at the window. Mapco is cheaper anyway, so we, being men, picked up Chocolate Moose Milk and Xing Half-and-Half, which is Arnold Palmer.

We then jetted over to the picnic table in Woodmont Park. We highly recommend

this tableau when it is not cold/drizzling outside. Unfortunately for us, it was cold/drizzling outside. However, regardless of the fact that the weather hated us and the Chocolate Moose Milk tasted like cold, watery, not-good hot chocolate, we both agreed that Pasgetti's made for an awesome meal. You should try it sometime, seriously.

More than movies moving into 3rd dimension

By Trey Howard
Staff Writer

At its basis 3-D film is created using a specialized camera that records images from two viewpoints rather than one. Advanced eyewear then finalizes the process, rendering the third dimension meant to amplify the experience.

Not until recently has the 3-D industry really hit its stride, but the earliest showing occurred as far back as 1922 with the exploratory *The Power of Love*. Since then, many studios have experimented and adapted 3-D technology into the flourishing phenomenon it's become.

Many scholars claim the years from 1952 to 1955 as 3-D's "golden era," noting this period for its major contributions to the craft. These innovations include the first color stereoscopic feature, Polaroid filters,

dual projectors, and anamorphic formatting. Although these terms are complex and their purposes are difficult to understand, they should be mentioned for their advancement of the 3-D industry.

However, it wasn't until the new millennium that studios would show big-budget films in 3-D at the time of their original release dates. When one of the earliest examples of a big-budget film produced in 3-D, *Terminator 2*, hit theaters in 1996, five years had passed since its initial release. Twenty-first century films such as *Polar Express* and *Spy Kids 3-D* proved that the technology could attract audiences and earn massive amounts of money, leading to the present where 3-D has become a fixture in big-budget movies.

Director James Cameron seemed to have disappeared after the monstrous success of *Titanic* in 1997, but actually he was

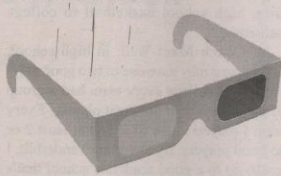
working on new improvements in 3-D that led to the even greater success of *Avatar* just last year. These improvements allowed the imaginary world of Pandora to appear on Cameron's digital cameras as he was filming.

Now 3-D has become a reliable accommodation to the film industry, and at least one film a month has been released boasting eye-popping 3-D effects. *Avatar* earned upwards of \$740 million domestically, and *Alice in Wonderland* (also in 3-D) is the top earner so far this year, with close to \$300 million.

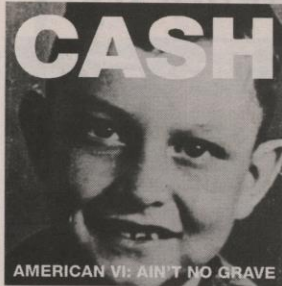
In regard to 3-D's reception, some past criticism has focused on the irritating effects of the necessary glasses. These problems seem to have been fixed in recent years, but some people still remained unsatisfied with the 3-D presentation. Critic Roger Ebert, for example, has stated that 3-D dulls

the coloring, and he would prefer to watch movies in their standard format.

Whether you like 3-D or not, its popularity and growth indicate a lasting future. Cameron has expressed interest in 3-D gaming, and television already seems to have started down a path to 3-D. Will 3-D become the standard in future years? Although hard to imagine, viewers shouldn't be surprised if it does. In any case, not just moviegoers but everybody will be seeing 3-D a lot more in the years to come.



The Man in Black sings his own epitaph



By McKay Proctor
Staff Writer

The closest I've ever come to believing in ghosts was listening to Johnny Cash's most recent posthumous release *American VI: Ain't No Grave*. To hear the voice of a man now seven years dead is surreal, but

to hear him meditate on his own mortality is almost scary.

This album seems a meditation on Cash's impending death. His voice is weak and croaking, fading to a wheeze. Producer Rick Rubin keeps the instrumentation simple (generally piano and guitar) to allow the fading star center stage so every track has the full impact of the dying star's baritone.

The first and title track, a Christian traditional about salvation named "Ain't No Grave" takes on a new meaning when a dead man sings. What was once a tune of rejoicing becomes an ominous promise, "Ain't no grave can hold my body down/When I hear that trumpet sound I'm rise right out of the ground/Ain't no grave gonna hold my body down." Cash states how eternal his music will be. This track is the most instrumentally complex, with a banjo and chained footsteps adding to the constant guitar and piano.

The track that follows, "Redemption Day," written by Sheryl Crow, seems a standard song about a train, but Cash uses

it as another canvas to come to terms with humanity and its vices. Its simple back drop leads to a pointed track with a very good overall feel.

In Kristofferson's "For the Good Times," Cash turns an old Ray Price seducer into a goodbye to the world: "Don't look so sad/I know it's over/But life goes on/And this old world/Will keep on turning." It may not fit in with the tone of the first two songs, but it is still awe-striking the way Cash alters the meaning of a song.

One of Cash's final originals follows, "I Corinthians 15:55," is a hymn from beyond the grave. Cash wails, "Oh, Death, where is thy sting? Oh, Grief, where is thy victory?" Here Cash sings his own epitaph.

In the next songs on the album, "Can't Help but Wonder Where I'm Bound" and "Satisfied Mind," Cash reveals that he's comfortable with his death — "one thing's for certain, when it comes my time/I'll leave this old world with a satisfied mind" — and

the rest of the album follows along a theme of comfort and waiting to die.

On the final track, the Hawaiian standard "Aloha Oe," Cash croaks out the song in a sheer, striking baritone that cracks, and he has no real control over it, but it's none the less beautiful. Cash sings goodbye to the world, not in mourning and not spitefully, but almost like he's going on a vacation. It puts the cap on a beautiful album that, while perhaps not as thought-provoking as the others it follows in the American recordings, is certainly on the same plateau.

They are simple pieces of Americana that are so bare and yet so rich. Cash was a musical giant. I can't help but feel that the run that he had with these recordings will be unparalleled in years to come. Five albums over ten years, each an awesome testament to the artist's ability and experience! Cash is by no means the greatest writer or showman or album-crafter of all time, but he is and always will be one thing if nothing else, the Man in Black.

New Gorillaz indicts society, induces dancing



By Daniel Smith
Staff Writer

Every year or so, I visit the Grassmere Zoo. Elephants, lions, otters, zebras, every other "cool" animal imaginable, they're all there at the zoo. I've learned that such a gathering place for critters both big and small can be a place of inspiration; there is something wildly poetic about the zoo.

But I can't help but wonder whether Damon Albarn, ex-frontman of Blur—a defunct Britpop group—walked into some British zoo and had a twisted light bulb moment: I've got it! I'll put together a band of animals!

Sure enough, he followed through; fortunately, though, he didn't rely on real animals to fulfill his ambitions. Instead,

Albarn dreamt up a quartet of animated monkey musicians, published their meticulous back stories, and, in effect, created the most successful virtual band of all time: Gorillaz.

Albarn acts as alpha Gorilla, lead vocalist 2D, and casts other human musicians as guest musicians; therefore, Gorillaz is virtually—pardon the pun—a high-budget Damon Albarn project, since the band is ultimately, save for Albarn, amorphous in its lineup. Listeners are treated to a glorious list of guests, including Snoop Dogg, Bobby Womack, Little Dragon, Mark E. Smith, Lou Reed, Mos Def, Gruff Rhys, De La Soul, Mick Jones, and Paul Simonon.

Plastic Beach, Gorillaz' third (and last?) LP, boasts a concept so ridiculous that it would be laughable if it didn't work so well. Not only is the band a group of four nonexistent primates, but there's a plot also: the Gorillaz have wrecked a boat on a polluted island where they have set up a new recording studio to make, well, this very album. Quirky: yes. Eccentric: yes. Silly: not really.

Plastic Beach is, at its core, a fun, endearing record that finds an immaculate middle ground between color and heart. It is an album that, despite its large cast, is one solid work of art and not the "singles" collection it threatened to be.

Snoop Dogg is master of ceremonies

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Predictability does not apply to Gorillaz. "White Flag," for example, opens with over a minute of orchestral arrangements before morphing into an upbeat Super Nintendo Mario-esque jam. Second single "Superfast Jellyfish" is essentially a catchy jingle advertising "pretty packages of frosty delights." Yet the lyrics of "White Flag" touch upon themes of surrender, and "Jellyfish," upon second glance, is a biting satire of media indulgence and artificiality. Herein lies the album's brilliant balance of goofiness and seriousness.

This formula is best embodied in *Plastic Beach*'s closing duo of "Cloud of Unknowing" and "Pirate Jet." On the former—the record's starkest, most heart-breaking track—crooner Bobby Womack wails soulfully about uncertainty of life. "Pirate Jet," on the other hand, is a bouncy

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Perhaps I'm looking too closely at *Plastic Beach* when I say it has artistic merit. I'll stand by my argument, though. *Plastic Beach* is Damon Albarn's masterwork, a social criticism of modern artifice broadcast through the medium of the fakest band ever to grace the mainstream. Oh, yeah, and it's fun to listen to and makes me want to dance around forever. Good going, Damon.

"I'm a scary gargoyle on a tower
That you made with plastic power
Your rhinestone eyes are like factories far away
Where the paralytic dreams that we
all seem to keep
Drive on engines 'till they weep
With future pixels in factories far away."

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New Gorillaz indicts society, induces dancing



By Daniel Smith
Staff Writer

Every year or so, I visit the Grassmere Zoo. Elephants, lions, otters, zebras, every other "cool" animal imaginable, they're all there at the zoo. I've learned that such a gathering place for critters both big and small can be a place of inspiration; there is something wildly poetic about the zoo.

But I can't help but wonder whether Damon Albarn, ex-frontman of Blur—a defunct Britpop group—walked into some British zoo and had a twisted light bulb moment: *I've got it! I'll put together a band of animals!*

Sure enough, he followed through; fortunately, though, he didn't rely on *real* animals to fulfill his ambitions. Instead,

Albarn dreamt up a quartet of animated monkey musicians, published their meticulous back stories, and, in effect, created the most successful virtual band of all time: Gorillaz.

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Tennis hopes depth will lead to championship

continued from page 1

MBA and had to sit out one year due to TSSAA rules. After the short hiatus, Naveen began terrorizing opponents with his smashing serves and ludicrously long last name. Naveen is unquestionably the leader of the squad, as he held down the number one slot all year last year and looks to play at number two right behind Roger this year. I had a chance to get the inside scoop on Naveen's recruitment process firsthand from the star himself: "I was choosing among Brown, Dartmouth, Wash U, and Louisville, which is ranked eleventh nationally and surprisingly showed late interest. I picked Wash U because I liked the coach a lot more, I know some guys on the team, and it's a lot closer to home."

The tennis team has one of the most dedicated and genuine coaches on campus

in Coach Zac Hood. When asked what this team's greatest strength is, he quickly responded, "Unity – Each one of these guys really cares about one another, and that can make or break a big match at the end."

This season's top six single spots are as follows, in order: Roger Briggs, Naveen Chadalavada, Palmer Campbell, Russ Anderson, Davis Thraillkill, and Andrew Karpos. These six men will be the workhorses that will try to carry this team to its ultimate goal of a state championship victory this year.

For all of those die-hard tennis fanatics out there, a slight rule change is being enforced this year by the TSSAA. Matches will now consist of three doubles games and six singles games, instead of the two doubles and five singles format of last year. The first team to win two doubles games will be

awarded one point. This point can be incredibly challenging to make up for the losers of the doubles matches because they would have to turn around and win four of the six singles matches in order to win the match as a whole. In Coach Hood's opinion, the new 3-6 format plays to MBA's advantage: dependable depth.

One motivating note for the squad this year will be to send out the current tennis courts on a strong note; after this season, they will be demolished, and a parking garage will be built in their place. However, Coach Hood and the tennis program are looking forward to building some new courts that should be located across from Brighton Road: "They're making it unique," said Coach Hood. "It will be featuring three courts with seating on both sides, as opposed to just one center court. Also, the architect of

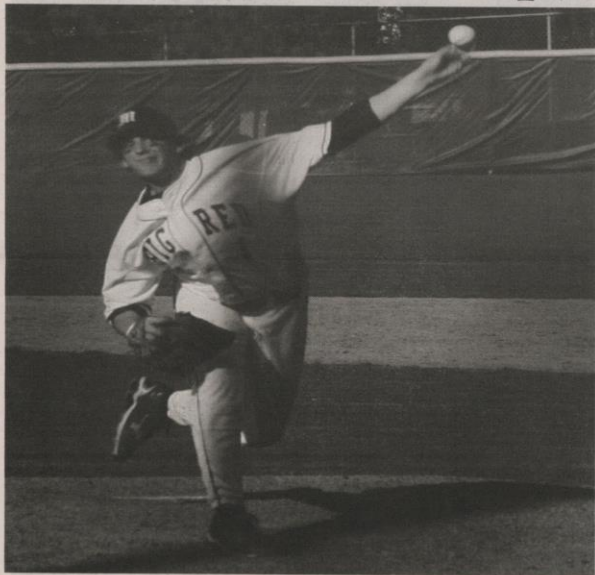
the courts has presented five different court categories, each of which affects the speed and bounce of the ball in a different way."

The courts at the Australian Open have a surface type of level 1, while the US Open has courts with a level of 5. The higher the level, the faster the ball bounces after hitting the court. Hopefully MBA can establish a firm home court advantage by playing to their strengths with the type of surface they select.

In Coach Hood's opinion, the style of play for this year's team closely resembles the "intelligent recklessness" that Michael Vick played with during his tenure at Virginia Tech: aggressive, but still smart. The tennis team will do its best to bring a bulldog mentality to the tennis courts on a daily basis and capture yet another state title for the unbeatable Class of 2010.

Baseball looks to improve in course of season

By Alex Apple
Co-Sports Editor



The Montgomery Bell Academy baseball team comes into the 2010 season with a proven lineup and a good mix of power and speed, but an unproven pitching staff. However, the team does have a solid set of seniors to lead and underclassmen who will need to play significant roles. As expressed by Coach Mike Anderson, "Leadership of the seniors and team chemistry will be a couple of our biggest strengths. We have a great group of young men on our team."

Offensively, William Tanner will lead off and play center field, and he will be flanked in the outfield by seniors David Lee and Jackson Roberts. Around the infield, Joe Reigle and Alex Kohls will play on the left side, and Oliver Oldacre will play first with Neil Reinhardt at second. Catching will be junior Alex Hunt.

Those eight players will provide consistency and balance at the plate and in the field. During the Big Red's recent trip to Arizona, they had one of the most suc-

cessful runs, beating several good teams. Consistently hitting well, the team went as the pitching went. Righty Luke Colbert has come back to the team and will exclusively pitch in 2010, but the team is short on left-handed pitchers. The only lefties that will pitch will be seniors Oliver Oldacre and David Lee. Some of the most experienced starters will be Neil Reinhardt and Denny Sandwith, and freshman Lawson Factor will also serve as a young arm to help the team.

Reflecting on the trip out west, Coach Anderson said, "Pitching will definitely be our biggest question mark, but we saw some very optimistic things in Arizona."

In the region, Brentwood Academy, BGA, and JPII will return as strong teams, but the opportunity is there for the Big Red to compete and make some noise during region play. Expect some inconsistency early, especially as the pitching staff continues to feel out their roles. With steady improvement, the team hopes to play its best baseball around tournament time.

(Left) Oliver Oldacre ('10) pitches in a game against McCallie. Coach Mike Anderson has called pitching the team's "biggest question mark." Photo by Parrish Preston ('13)

Shifting lineup, soccer plays through injuries

By Tom Markham
Staff Writer

The MBA varsity soccer team is looking to find a new identity this season and, with this new identity, to go deep in the playoffs, a feat that has eluded the team for the past few years.

The team looked very promising last year, with many seniors on the team and the outstanding play of senior leader Houston Oldham. Unfortunately, they could not cap off the season with a state championship.

This year's team has a slightly different demographic. There are clear leaders on the team in the three seniors – Rob Smith, Turner Henderson, and Eric Mace – but the rest of the team is relatively young and is thus still working together to create the cohesiveness needed to succeed as a strong team.

Just when the team started to gel and perform as a strong unit, however, injuries began to take their toll, most notably to juniors Ben Crook, Ryan Shephard, and Clay McDonald. At first the team struggled to regroup, losing close matches to Independence and Franklin High.

Since then the guys have been able to get their feet back under them, but not without some readjustment. Players were moved to new positions in order to compensate for any gaps due to injuries. Junior defender Paul van Pernis said of the situation, "There's a lot of competition for certain positions right now."

It appears that the jockeying for positions and playing time has in fact created a sense of urgency in the team, as it quickly rebounded from the loss to Franklin to defeat Hillsboro 4-0. Is this victory a sign of winning ways to come?

The team has a long way to go before taking on fierce rival Father Ryan at the end of the season, but it can easily be accomplished as a team effort. The players hope to work together to perform as a consistent, unified squad and to overcome inexperience and lineup changes in order to become a threat in the playoffs later this year.

Crucial upcoming games for the Big Red include McCallie on April 16 and MUS on April 23. The team faces Father Ryan on April 30 – its toughest competition, fiercest rival, and last test before playoff time. Until then, the team has plenty of games to refine their play and improve into a team poised for a state championship.

Trey Gill ('13), only a freshman and already playing on the varsity level, takes control during a match against CPA. Photo by Parrish Preston ('13)



Basketball earns school's 3rd athletic state title

By George Swenson
Staff Writer

After a strong 20-5 record in the regular season, the MBA varsity basketball continued its dominance by capturing MBA's first Division II AA state championship since 2001. The team was led by senior guards Tyler Paslick and Holden Mobley, along with sophomore big man David Howard.

The team started the state tournament by beating local rival John Paul II and Memphis foe MUS. The climax of the tournament, however, was the semifinal game against Ensworth. With the game starting at 12:30, MBA students, given a rare half-day of classes, took numerous buses on their way to cheer on the Big Red at Lipscomb's Allen Arena.

"I have never seen such great fan support from MBA. The team feeds off the crowd's motivation and intensity during the game. I try to block the crowd out but near the end I looked up seeing the cheering sea of red and had to take it all in," said Mobley.

Despite having free throw trouble at the beginning of the game, the Big Red's big shots and David Howard's free throws in the fourth quarter helped the Big Red slowly distance itself from Ensworth. In addition to the 84-80 victory, MBA set a

record for most free throw attempts in a state tournament game. The team went 37 for 59 in free throws – the defining factor of a tightly contested game.

This win led the Big Red to face Christian Brothers in the championship game. The game was close throughout the first three quarters, but the team was able to pull away to secure the state title. Mobley led all scorers with 16 and was named Tournament MVP, while junior standout Chase Owen chipped in 12.

"Winning the state championship means everything to me. It was a dream. We have been working together since we were freshmen and never doubted that we could do it," says Mobley.

According to Paslick, "It means everything to us, especially the seniors, to know that all the work that we put in all these years in the past allowed us to achieve what we have always dreamed about."

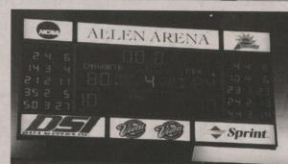
With this title MBA ties a record for most state championships in boys' basketball history.

Next year, Mobley, although he is not committed is "99.9% sure that [he] will be playing for Coach Byrd at Belmont." Paslick will go to TCU, Clemson, or SMU next year in hopes of walking on.

As for the Big Red next year, Mobley believes the team is going to be even better. "Division II AA better watch out next year



MBA's 2010 varsity basketball team capped a strong regular season with often elusive playoff success, defeating rival Ensworth en route to its first state title since 2001. (Above) The team celebrates with its trophy. (Right) Scoreboard against Ensworth. Photos courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman



because the Big Red is coming back better than ever," he warned.

With the team having three returning starters – JoJo Guerre, David Howard, and Austin Blackwell – and with the leader-

ship of Coaches Kevin Anglin and Ronnie McMahan, another state championship does indeed seem a viable goal for the near future.

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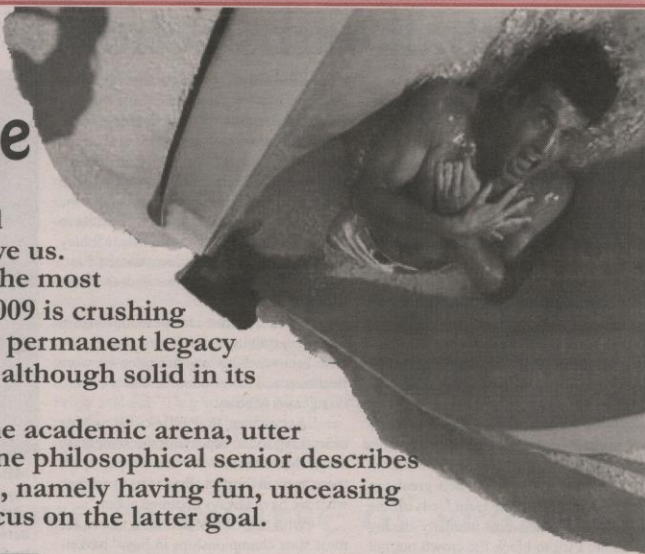
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Snooki the Senior's 3-Step Guide to a Super Senior Slide

The Class of 2010 has proven itself. In almost every category, we have far exceeded the relatively small shadow of the class above us. But "almost" is the key factor. In arguably the most important characteristic of a senior class, 2009 is crushing us. The quality of a Senior Slide defines the permanent legacy of a class' influence on the Hill. This class, although solid in its incipient slide, is reaching no new peaks.

Balancing a Senior Slide is tough. In the academic arena, utter lethargy – "a marvelous complacency" as one philosophical senior describes it – is necessary; while in other facets of life, namely having fun, unceasing participation is required. This guide will focus on the latter goal.



Step 1: Game the system

Games not only pass the time once filled with schoolwork but, more importantly, build a sense of confidence that only being the champion of Connect 4 can instill. Above all else, simplicity is key: the simpler the game, the more successful the slide.

Past successes:

- Guess Who – Suspense only rivaled by a game of Peek-a-Boo
- Connect 4 – Tic-tac-toe on steroids
- Robot Unicorn Attack – "Always" + jumping unicorn = Harmony harmony oh love
- Ski Runner – An '09 classic. Warning: like 80s movies, there's too

much annoying music and the sequel is never as good. Ski Runner 2 is a BUST!

-Pokemon – "Gotta catch 'em all!" = great advice for so many facets of life (and, admittedly, disastrous for others)



Suggestions for the Future:

- Clue Jr – Obviously the real Clue is far too dark
- Hungry Hungry Hippos – Does this need an explanation as to why it's awesome?

Press X to
rainbow attack
the star...
...or you die.



Step 2: (De)Activate

In the likely event that over-usage of these games will cause any number of problems – seizures, carpal tunnel, etc. – a backup is required. Targeted activities can distract a senior from focusing.

Past successes:

- FASTketball – The first sport on campus founded by senior sliders
- ChatRoulette – It's like Russian roulette: a 1in 6

chance of getting some action

Suggestions for the Future:

- Slide – Literally. Nashville Shores is opening soon, and those water slides are awesome.
- Lounging – Couches, lawn chairs, recliners – the WORKS!

Our seniors should be sleeping during the day in comfort and style.



Step 3: Take it to the next level

As juniors, we brought the Stanky Legg to Nashville from its nascency in Houston. The seniors outperformed us by having a virus cancel school for a week. Considering the poor chance of Mataba causing another year of absences, we'll have

to do better in creating the final factor of a senior slide: taking the occasional extreme measure. Ideas for such a cause should not be printed for underclassmen to view. A senior class meeting, however, will empower the slide to forge on.